

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 10369

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH ROMULO OR ALLEGED VIOLATION OF

- DIPLOMATIC PREMISES

REF: MANILA 10286

1. MET WITH FONMIN ROMULO TUESDAY MORNING CONCERNING NEW YORK INCIDENT, HAVING FORWARDED TO HIS OFFICE PREVIOUS DAY EMBASSY NOTE INCORPORATING DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S REPLY TO PHILIPPINE EMBASSY WASHINGTON. ROMULO DESCRIBED SELF AS HIGHLY DISTURBED OVER THE INCIDENT AND ASSERTED SEVERAL TIMES DURING MEETING THAT REACTIONS AMONG FILIPINOS CONTINUE TO ESCALATE. THIS MORNING HE HAD BEEN STOPPED AT ENTRANCE OF FOREIGN MINISTRY BY DELEGATION OF STUDENT LEADERS FROM MAJOR MANILA UNIVERSITIES ASKING THAT HE SUPPORT A STUDENT CAMPAIGN TO CANCEL THIS YEAR'S OBSERVANCE OF JULY 4 AS PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP DAY. DEBATE OVER INCIDENT AT YESTERDAY'S SESSION OF PARLIAMENT WAS AS HOT AS LAST FRIDAY'S AND, ON MARCOS' DIRECTION, ROMULO HAD INTERVENED SEVERAL TIMES IN ATTEMPT TO CUT OFF FURTHER DISCUSSION.

2. HE STRESSED THAT THE "CALDRON IS BOILING AND WE NEED TO DOUSE THE FLAME." IN SIDE COMMENT HE OBSERVED SARDONI-  
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CALLY THAT THE NEW YORK POLICE ARE A PROFESSIONAL FORCE AND NOT COMPOSED OF "POOR COPS WHO DO NOT KNOW THEIR OWN BEAT." HE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR RESENTMENT OVER THE ACCOUNT THAT PHILIPPINE EMPLOYEES HAD BEEN FORCED TO STRIP NAKED AT THE POLICE STATION AND SAID THAT HAD THE PREMISES OF BRITISH, FRENCH OR SOVIET MISSIONS BEEN INVOLVED, THE NEW YORK POLICE WOULD NOT HAVE SO ACTED. I TOOK STRONG

ISSUE WITH THIS AND SAID THAT THE NEW YORK POLICE WERE NOT IN THE HABIT OF VIOLATING ANY NATION'S DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.

3. RECALLING HE HIMSELF HAD BEEN A POLICE REPORTER "AND FAMILIAR WITH THEIR WAYS," ROMULO SAID HE HAD NO CONFIDENCE THAT NEW YORK POLICE WOULD REFRAIN FROM MANUFACTURING EVIDENCE IF NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THEIR ACTION AT GOP CENTER. HE REGRETTED DEPARTMENT HAD SEEN FIT TO INTRODUCE NEW YORK POLICE EXPLANATION OF ITS ACTIONS IN TEXT OF APOLOGY. THIS HAD RENDERED APOLOGY ITSELF UNACCEPTABLE TO GOP. (COMMENT. HE DID NOT REPEAT NOT PURSUE THIS LINE.) I REMINDED GENERAL THAT DEPARTMENT'S NOTE DID NOT ASSERT CORRECTNESS OF EITHER VERSION OF THE INCIDENT AND HAD CLEARLY LABELED NEW YORK POLICE REPORT AS PRELIMINARY AND ORAL. FURTHERMORE, WE HAD ASKED THE POLICE COMMISSIONER FOR NEW YORK FOR A COMPLETE REPORT AND OTHER INVESTIGATIONS MAY ALSO GET UNDERWAY. HE COULD BE ASSURED WE TOOK THIS INCIDENT VERY SERIOUSLY AND WOULD PURSUE ITS INVESTIGATION. ROMULO URGED THAT WE SUBMIT FINAL REPORT TO GOP PRIOR TO JULY 4 SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO INHIBITION ON OBSERVANCE OF PHILIPPINE-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP DAY. MEANWHILE GOP INTENDS ENGAGE LAWYER TO PRESS FOR DAMAGES.

4. THE GENERAL THEN SAID HE FOUND WHOLE INCIDENT A PARTICULAR PERSONAL EMBARRASSMENT BECAUSE IT HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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HAPPENED WHILE HE WAS IN THAILAND DEFENDING THE U.S. POSTURE IN THE ASEAN DIALOGUE (SEPTEL). AS A LONG-TIME FRIEND OF THE STATES, HE HOPED THAT WE REALIZED WHAT DIFFICULTIES THIS INCIDENT CAUSED HIM AS WELL AS PRESIDENT MARCOS, WHO "WANTS TO PROTECT OUR RELATIONSHIP." HE HIMSELF HAD TOLD THE STUDENT DELEGATION, "THE PRESIDENT WANTS YOU TO PLAY IT COOL."

5. COMMENT. THE INCIDENT IS NOW WELL ON ITS WAY TO BEING ENSHRINED IN PHILIPPINE FOLKLORE AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW INSENSITIVE WE ARE TO OUR FRIENDS AND AN UGLY RACIAL IMPLICATION TO THE WHOLE AFFAIR IS ALSO IN THE AIR.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT URGE NEW YORK POLICE AUTHORITIES TO WRAP UP THIS INVESTIGATION ASAP. AT THE MOMENT ROMULO AND THE PRESS PUBLICLY ARE CALLING FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS INVOLVED. I RECOGNIZE THAT INVESTIGATION MAY CONCLUDE NO DISCIPLINARY MEASURES ARE REQUIRED. THIS WILL MAKE ALL THE MORE DESIRABLE SOME FURTHER STEP FROM OUR SIDE SUCH AS A VANCE-ROMULO LETTER OR EVEN ONE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO MARCOS. MURPHY

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